

Message Text

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TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, SPOP
SUBJECT: 62ND ECOSOC: ITEM 8 - POPULATION QUESTIONS; GENERAL
DEBATE

1. SUMMARY: WHILE FALLING CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF THE BIENNIAL REVIEW IN DEPTH OF POPULATION QUESTIONS CALLED FOR IN ECOSOC DECISION 89 OF 4 MAY 1975, THE 62ND ECOSOC HEARD A LONG INTRODUCTION OF THE 19TH REPORT OF THE POPULATION COMMISSION BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE UN POPULATION DIVISION AND STATEMENTS BY EIGHTEEN COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE US. MANY OF THE COUNTRY STATEMENTS WERE EXTENSIVE AND WELL PREPARED, ESPECIALLY IN CONTRAST TO THE 61ST ECOSOC WHERE THERE WERE VERY FEW SPEAKERS AND POPULATION QUESTIONS WERE HANDLED IN A STRICTLY PERFUNCTORY MANNER. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE UN POPULATION DIVISION, THE US PROPOSED IN ITS STATEMENT THAT THE COUNCIL CONSIDER RECOMMENDING THAT THE 64TH ECOSOC HOLD AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF POPULATION QUESTIONS AS PART OF ITS BACKGROUND PREPARATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF A THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE. HOWEVER, THE US DID NOT PUSH ITS INFORMAL PROPOSAL SINCE THE YUGOSLAVS, SPEAKING FOR THE G-77, INDICATED THEY WERE OPPOSED TO THE 62ND ECOSOC PASSING ANY "SECTORAL" DECISIONS CONCERNING THE FUTURE WORK OF THE COUNCIL SINCE THEY WOULD BE "CONTRARY
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TO THE SPIRIT" IN WHICH RESOLUTION 31/182 ON PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. END SUMMARY.

2. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR OF POPULATION DIVISION. TABAH, DISCUSSING THE SUBJECTS CONSIDERED AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE POPULATION COMMISSION,

SAID THE COMMISSION HAD FOCUSED ON TWO MAJOR THEMES -- ACTIVITIES TIED TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE HELD IN BUCHAREST IN 1974; AND THE CONTINUING WORK IN THE POPULATION FIELD DONE BY THE SECRETARIAT. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE SAID, THE COMMISSION HAD EXAMINED MEASURES TAKEN AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO IMPLEMENT THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED AT BUCHAREST. IT WAS ALSO CONCERNED WITH MONITORING POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES, AND WITH EVALUATION OF THE ACTION PLAN. TABAH WENT ON TO SAY THAT 109 GOVERNMENTS HAD RESPONDED TO THE SECRETARIAT'S THIRD QUERY REGARDING THE MONITORING OF POPULATION TRENDS. ONLY 68 HAD ANSWERED THE SECOND QUERY. TABAH SAID "THE PROBLEMS OF POPULATION ARE ESSENTIALLY THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT." AS REGARDS THE EVALUATION OF THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION, TABAH SAID THAT SEVERAL STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN, INCLUDING A PRECISE DEFINITION OF OBJECTIVES; AND STRENGTHENING THE LIAISON WITH THE GOALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE. TABAH SAID THE COMMISSION HAD PROPOSED THAT A SMALL ADVISORY GROUP OF SIX EXPERTS BE CONVENED TO ASSIST THE SECRETARIAT IN CARRYING OUT THESE VARIOUS TASKS. THE GROUP WOULD BEGIN ITS WORK NEXT MONTH IN NEW YORK.

3. STATEMENTS BY COUNTRY DELEGATIONS - COUNTRY STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY NORWAY, POLAND, THE SOVIET UNION, THE US, THE FRG, YUGOSLAVIA, UKRAINE, JAPAN, MEXICO, THE UK, NEW ZEALAND, NETHERLANDS, BANGLADESH, CUBA, ALGERIA, UNCLASSIFIED

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UGANDA, UPPER VOLTA AND FRANCE. SUMMARIES OF THE 17 COUNTRY STATEMENTS ARE BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT TO THE ATTENTION OF ROBERT SIMMONS OES/CP.

4. US STATEMENT - THREE COPIES OF THE SEVEN PAGE US STATEMENT (A STATEMENT WHICH WAS DERIVED FROM US POSITION PAPER UNEC D-78/77) ARE ALSO BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT TO THE ATTENTION OF MR. SIMMONS. LEONARD

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